

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #134

Mr. Yamada

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KANJI

1. よし: 今度の昇進についてですが、誰がいいですかね。
2. 夏子: 山田さんはどうですか。
3. 彼は熱心で一生懸命働きます。
4. よし: そうですね。彼がいいです。
5. 決まりです。

KANA

1. よし: こんどのしょうしんについてですが、だれがいいですかね。
2. なつこ: やまださんはどうですか。
3. かれはねっしんでいっしょうけんめいはたらきます。
4. よし: そうですね。かれがいいです。
5. きまりです。

ROMANIZATION

1. YOSHI: Kondo no shōshin ni tsuite desu ga, dare ga ii desu ka ne?
2. NATSUKO: Yamada-san wa dō desu ka?
3. Kare wa nesshin de issshōkenmei hatarakimasu.

CONT'D OVER

4. YOSHI: Sō desu ne. Kare ga ii desu.
5. Kimari desu.

ENGLISH

1. YOSHI: About the upcoming promotion, who would be good?
2. NATSUKO: How about Mr. Yamada?
3. He's passionate and he works as hard as he can.
4. YOSHI: That's right. He would be good.
5. It's been decided.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
昇進	しょうしん	shōshin	promotion
熱心	ねっしん	nesshin	enthusiasm, passion
一生懸命	いっしょうけんめい	isshōkenmei	with utmost effort
働く	はたらく	hataraku	to work; V1
決まる	きまる	kimaru	to be decided
降格	こうかく	kōkaku	demotion
決まり	きまり	kimari	conclusion, decision

SAMPLE SENTENCES

あの人は、昇進がとても早い。
Ano hito wa shōshin ga totemo hayai.

That guy is getting promoted at a fast rate.

朝から昼まで働きます。
Asa kara hiru made hatarakimasu.

I work from morning to noon.

GRAMMAR

Today's grammar point is "de" - the te-form of the copula, which is the rough equivalent of the English verb "to be." The te-form of the copula can be used in the same fashion as the English coordinating conjunction "and" in order to join two or more independent clauses. Speaking in short, simple sentences sounds awkward in English, and the same is true for Japanese. Using the te-form of the copula will allow one to create more complex sentences that flow better and sound more natural.

From the dialog:

彼は熱心で一生懸命働きます。
Kare wa nesshin de isshōkenmei hatarakimasu.
"He's passionate and he works as hard as he can."

This is made up of two independent clauses:

彼は熱心です。;and;一生懸命働きます。
Kare wa nesshin desu.;;Isshōkenmei hatarakimasu.
"He's passionate.;;He works as hard as he can."

By using the te-form of the copula, these two independent clauses can be combined into one natural sounding sentence.

Another example:

彼は男前で女にすごくモテモテです。
Kare wa otokomae de onna ni sugoku motemote desu.
"He is a stud, and he is extremely popular among the girls."

An easy way to remember how to use this construction is to think of the polite form of the copula, "desu," and just drop the "su," which leaves "de." So where you would normally have "desu," drop the "su," leaving "de," and continue on with the next independent clause.